

REMARKS

Claims 26-31 are pending in the application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 26 by the current Amendment. The attachment is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

It is respectfully submitted that claims 26-31 are patentable for the following reasons.

The claimed arrangement is schematically shown in the attached Fig. A. In this arrangement, when, for example, a set of external drug data "D-1" is entered, the claimed correlating means correlates this data D-1 with the drug type code "1". The drug type code "1" is correlated with the printer No. 3 in accordance with the printer setting file stored in the claimed memory. The drug data H-1 is also correlated with the drug type code "1". In the claimed arrangement, an operator does not have to select a printer to be used for each set of drug data. For example, if it is desired to print drug data G-3, an operator simply selects the data G-3 and presses a print start button. The rest of the job is performed by the claimed printer activating means. That is, the printer activating means refers to the claimed correlating means, determines that the data G-3 is correlated with the drug type code 3, refers to the claimed printer setting file, determines that the drug type code 3 is correlated with the printer No. 5, and activates the printer No. 5. Thus, even if the operator does not know that the data G-3 is a data on a powder drug, and/or that powder drugs have to be printed on the printer No. 5, data G-3 can be printed on the right printer, i.e. printer No. 5. If it is desired to change the correlation between the drug type codes and the printer codes, this can be done simply by displaying the table as shown in Fig. 4 of the present invention and changing any desired printer code or drug type code.

Kraslavsky may, very generally, teach displaying on the monitor, as shown in the attached Figure B, a table containing a plurality of sets of separate data to be printed and a plurality of printer codes. Typically, such a table may include two windows in which one of the plurality of sets of separate data and one of the printer codes can be selected, respectively. In this arrangement, in order to print, e.g. data G-3, an operator has to select data G-3 in the first window, find out that data G-3

is a data about a powder drug and that powder drugs have to be printed on the printer No. 5, and select printer No. 5 in the second window, and finally press the print start button.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Kraslavsky fails to teach a printer activating means as required in independent claim 26 as amended.

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26-31 are patentable over Kraslavsky.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Hideyuki YUYAMA et al.

By: Thomas D. Robbins

Thomas D. Robbins
Registration No. 43,369
Attorney for Applicants

TDR/abm
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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26. (Amended) A drug preparation order system for use with a drug preparation order sheet, said system comprising:

a control unit for carrying out logic operations and outputting control signals[, said control unit including a memory];

a display device connected to said control unit; and

a plurality of printers connected to said control unit₁[;]

said control unit comprising:

a memory for storing a plurality of printer codes each corresponding to one of said plurality of printers, a plurality of drug type codes, and a printer setting file defining a correlation between the drug type codes and the printer codes;

an input device through which external data can be entered into said memory, said external data comprising a plurality of sets of data, each set comprising drug data;

correlating means for correlating each of the plurality of sets of data with one of the drug type codes;

display means for displaying said correlation between the drug type codes and the printer codes on said display device;

altering means for altering said correlation in response to a signal entered through said input device; and

printer activating means for, in response to a command to print one of the plurality of sets of data, activating one of said printers that corresponds to one of the printer codes corresponding, in accordance with said printer setting file, to one of said drug type codes which is correlated by said correlating means with said one of the plurality of sets of data to print said one of the plurality of sets of data on a drug preparation sheet

[said memory storing a table which includes a plurality of drug type codes and a plurality of printer codes, each of the drug type codes corresponding to one of the printer codes,

said control unit further including:

an input device operable to input external data into said memory, the external data comprising a plurality of sets of data, each set comprising drug data,

means for associating each of the plurality of sets of data with one of the drug type codes;

means for associating each of said plurality of printers with one of the printer codes;

means for displaying the table on said display;

means for changing the drug type codes and/or printer codes through said input device while the table is displayed on said display; and

means for activating one of said printers that corresponds to the drug type code associated with one of the plurality of sets of data to print the one of the plurality of sets of data on a drug preparation order sheet upon entry of a command to print the one of the plurality of sets of data].